

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE: MLDURKEE:LRG

APPROVED BY: EUR: L BRUCE LAINGEN

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S/S-O: JHOGANSON

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R 082323Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188331

STADIS

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 4102 ACTION SECSTATE 05 AUG 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4102

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

1. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL MILITARY COMMITTEE RECORD OF A JULY 15 PRIVATE SESSION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON SPAIN. THE SESSION WAS CALLED BY THE MC CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS US MILREP'S PROPOSAL FOR A MILITARY COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT OF SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE.

2. WE ARE UNAWARE WHETHER JCS HAS COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON INSTRUCTION TO US MILREP TO RAISE THE MATTER OF SPAIN IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY COMMITTEE. NOR ARE WE INFORMED AS TO WHETHER DEPARTMENT HAS CONCURRED IN FALL-BACK WE UNDERSTAND US MILREP IS AUTHORIZED TO PURSUE ENTAILING PROVISION BY HIM OF AN ASSESSMENT OF SPAIN'S MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE TO BE DISCUSSED IN MC AFTER

CAPITALS HAVE HAD TIME TO REFLECT ON IT. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, WE WOULD FAVOR PROVISION OF SUCH A REPORT TO MC, AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY TO NAC/DPC, FOR IT WOULD KEEP QUESTION OF SPAIN/NATO RELATIONS IN PLAY IN LOW KEY AND WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER EDUCATING ALLIED POLITICAL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES BY REQUIRING THEM TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC MILITARY JUDGMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN SUCH A US STUDY.

E. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THROUGH STADIS CHANNEL DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, AS WELL AS RELEVANT BACKGROUND THAT WOULD HELP US IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE HERE.

R. BEGIN TEXT:

ITEM 1 SPAIN

THE UNITED STATES MEMBER REMINDED THE COMMITTEE OF THE APPROACH HIS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAD MADE AT THE 59TH MC/CS OVER TRYING TO GET SOME FORM OF NATO RECOGNITION FOR SPAIN AND POSSIBLY CLOSER LINKS. GENERAL BROWN HAD SUGGESTED SEVERAL METHODS WHEREBY THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED BY MILITARY LIAISON. ADMIRAL WEINEL WENT ON TO REMIND THE COMMITTEE THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON GENERAL BROWN'S PROPOSAL KNOWING THAT THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE POLITICAL RESERVATIONS ON THE APPROACH. ADMIRAL WEINEL SAID HE HAD HAD A SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CHAIRMAN ON THIS MATTER AND HE, ON HIS PART, HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS EXCHANGE BEING CIRCULATED TO THE OTHER MEMBERS. THE UNITED STATES MEMBER WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE UNITED STATES VIEW THAT IT DID NOT REQUIRE POLITICAL APPROVAL TO LOOK AT WHAT WAS A RECOGNISABLE MILITARY PROBLEM, AND TO PROVIDE A MILITARY ASSESSMENT ON THAT PROBLEM; SPAIN IN THEIR VIEW COULD NOT BE SIMPLY IGNORED AND HE WAS THEREFORE ASKING FOR MEMBERS' VIEWS IN PRIVATE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING AN ICELANDIC TYPE OF STUDY ON THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE

OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA TO NATO. HE WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY ASKING
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FOR A STUDY AT THIS STAGE BUT WAS PUTTING DOWN A MARKER THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PRESS FOR ONE IN DUE COURSE.

THE CHAIRMAN CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO CIRCULATING THE LETTERS HE HAD EXCHANGED WITH ADMIRAL WEINEL AND WOULD ARRANGE FOR THIS TO BE DONE. THE DIFFICULTY OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL, AS HE SAW IT, WAS THAT ICELAND WAS A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE WHEREAS SPAIN WAS NOT AND THE SITUATION WAS THEREFORE DIFFERENT. HIS COUNTER SUGGESTION WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD ACHIEVE WHAT WAS WANTED BY DOING THEIR OWN NATIONAL STUDY AND PUTTING THIS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE; AS A SOVEREIGN NATION THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD PREVENT THEM FROM DOING SO.

THE CONSENSUS VIEW OF THE SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO SPOKE CONFIRMED THAT IN THEIR VIEW, AND SPEAKING WITHOUT GUIDANCE, IT WOULD BE QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO PUT IN HAND ON THEIR OWN INI-

TIATIVE SUCH A STUDY AS WAS SUGGESTED BY THE UNITED STATES MEMBER. FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL OF THEM WERE FIRM IN THE VIEW THAT THEY COULD NOT

BELIEVE THAT THE DPC WOULD THEMSELVES TASK THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE A MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF A MILITARY PROBLEM BECAUSE EVEN THIS MIGHT INFER CLOSER RELATIONSHIP. THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT THAT, AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, THE UNITED STATES HAD EVERY RIGHT TO SUBMIT WHAT PAPERS IT WANTED TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

THE UNITED STATES MEMBER EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF SUGGESTING THAT A STUDY SHOULD BE DONE SURREPTITIOUSLY BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVED THE PENINSULA TO BE VITAL TO NATO BUT IT WAS ALWAYS LEFT TO THE UNITED STATES TO DEAL WITH BILATERALLY; ON THIS RARE OCCASION THE UNITED STATES WERE ASKING THEIR ALLIES FOR HELP AND SUPPORT OVER THE PROBLEM. THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO SATISFY SPAIN'S NEED FOR RECOGNITION OVER THE UNQUESTIONABLE CONTRIBUTION THEY MADE TO THE DEFENCE OF THE WEST. THE UNITED STATES WERE NOT TRYING TO CHANGE POLITICAL VIEWS, BUT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST SURELY HAVE A PROFESSIONAL VIEW OF THE VALUE OF THE PENINSULA TO THE ALLIANCE.

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SUMMING UP THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY A MATTER ON WHICH MEMBERS WOULD NEED TO SEEK NATIONAL GUIDANCE. IN THE MEANTIME THE UNITED STATES MEMBER MUST HAVE RECEIVED A FAIRLY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THE REACTIONS TO AN OFFICIAL APPROACH WOULD BE AND, FURTHERMORE, THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE UNWISE TO SUGGEST POINT-BLANK THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO CARRY OUT SUCH A STUDY. THE BEST APPROACH MIGHT BE FOR THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO RAISE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE VERY DISCREETLY AT A WORKING LUNCH. MEMBERS WOULD NOTE THE UNITED STATES MEMBERS'S INTENTION TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN AFTER CONSULTING HIS AUTHORITIES. END TEXT.
STREATOR

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MILITARY ADVISERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE188331
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/WE: MLDURKEE:LRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750275-0269
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508100/baaaaarj.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MARR, SP, NATO
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006